

VICTORY CORPS AT WAR

V Corps Artillery



The Soldiers of V Corps Artillery spent 2006 on the unit's second combat tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; helping to rebuild Iraq and supporting counterinsurgency operations.

This one-year deployment was preceded by more than seven months of intensive preparation for their mission in Baghdad, Iraq. VCA's primary mission required the continuous integration of lethal and non-lethal fires and effects; conducting lethal targeting; non-lethal engagement targeting; serving as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters, and assessing the execution of the MNCI campaign plan across the full spectrum of combat operations. Some of the missions VCA Soldiers accomplished during their deployment were traditionally associated with an artillery unit, covering the entire gamut of lethal fires and effects, while others were outside their normal lanes of fire. On the traditional side, VCA Soldiers conducted precision long-range indirect fire missions; processed

more than 20,000 air support requests, and managed numerous target acquisitions in the OIF theatre of operations.

As part of its high-value individual targeting mission, VCA orchestrated the elimination or capture of more than 21 high-value strategic targets such as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, as well as hundreds of tactical insurgents and terrorists.

Missions outside the unit's normal line of fire included: disseminating more than 30,000 minutes of television air

time; 20,000 minutes of radio; 1,700 print articles; 180 billboards and 50,000 video compact discs in support of the MNCI information operations campaign; tracking reconstruction projects and helping to institute economic reforms throughout Iraq, and helping to assess Iraqi governmental control at the provincial level.

The bottom line to all these missions and many others like them: The Soldiers of V Corps Artillery rose to the occasion on the front line and performed magnificently. ■

